

IN THE CLAIMS:

This version of the claims replaces all previous versions.

1. (Currently Amended) A fishing leader storage assembly, comprising:

a container having an interior storage space and at least a pair of opposed upstanding walls with slots formed therein; and

~~at least one~~ a leader hanger for storing ~~one or more~~ fishing leaders, each fishing leader comprising a closed loop of fishing line, an intermediate section of fishing line extending from the closed loop, and a hook secured to the intermediate section, wherein ~~each~~ the leader hanger is formed as an elongated member having a plurality of integral leader support members thereon, wherein the elongated member has a length and opposed longitudinal wall portions and the support members extend from at least one longitudinal wall portion at fixed spaced longitudinal locations ~~so that a leader may be retained in a longitudinal storage position~~, and each leader support member is configured to support an intermediate section of a fishing leader and is configured to hookingly engage a hook of a fishing leader,

wherein the ~~at least one~~ leader hanger is removably supported in the slots in the container.

2. (Currently amended) The storage assembly of claim 1, ~~wherein the at least one leader hanger comprises~~ further comprising a plurality of leader hangers.

3. (Currently amended) The storage assembly of claim 1, wherein each leader support member has a pair of arcuate edges formed therein.

4. (Currently amended) The storage assembly of claim 1, wherein the elongated member is flexible such that the longitudinal distance between leader support members can be varied by flexing the elongated member.

5. (Currently amended) The storage assembly of claim 1, wherein the ~~at least one~~ leader hanger is constructed of molded plastic.
6. (Currently amended) The storage assembly of claim 1, wherein the leader hanger has ends that extend longitudinally beyond first and second ends of the elongated member and the ends are releasably retained in the slots.
7. (Original) The storage assembly of claim 1, wherein the container includes a storage tray that has the pair of upstanding walls.
8. (Original) The storage assembly of claim 7, wherein the storage tray is pivotally connected to the container and is movable between a storage position and a leader access position.
9. (Original) The storage assembly of claim 1, further comprising a cover attached to the container.
10. (Original) The storage assembly of claim 1, wherein the container includes removable partition walls.
11. (Original) The storage assembly of claim 10, wherein the slots are formed in the removable partition walls and the leader hanger hangs between the removable partition walls.
12. (Original) The storage assembly of claim 11, wherein a plurality of leader hangers hang in spaced parallel relation between the removable partition walls.

13. (Original) The storage assembly of claim 1, wherein the leader hanger has an arm extending from each end and forming a finger that hooks to the slots in the container.

14. (Currently amended) The storage assembly of claim 1, wherein the leader hanger has opposed ends and longitudinally extending slots at each opposed end, wherein the slots are longitudinally spaced from the leader support members, such that the closed loop of a leader can be retained by one of the opposed ends, the intermediate section can be supported by a first leader support member, and at least one leader support member in a longitudinal orientation the hook can be engaged with a second leader support member.

15. (Currently amended) A storage assembly, comprising:

a container with an interior storage space and upstanding walls, wherein the upstanding walls have a leader holding structure; and

at least one a leader hanger for storing a fishing leader, each fishing leader comprising a closed loop of fishing line, an intermediate section of fishing line extending from the closed loop, and a hook secured to the intermediate section, the leader hanger being formed as an elongated member having at least two flexible support members thereon for securing a fishing leader thereto, and each leader support member being configured to support the intermediate section of a fishing leader and being configured to hookingly engage a hook of a fishing leader, wherein the at least one leader hanger is removably supported in the container by the leader holding structure.

16. (Currently amended) The storage assembly of claim 15, wherein the leader holding structure is a series of spaced slots formed in opposed upstanding walls of the container, and the ~~at least one~~ leader hanger is releasably retained in opposed slots.

17. (Original) The storage assembly of claim 15, wherein a plurality of leader hangers are supported in a spaced, parallel arrangement in the container by the leader holding structure.

18. (Currently amended) The storage assembly of claim 15, wherein the ~~at least one leader hanger~~ has flexible support members are disposed along a length of an elongated side wall portion of the elongated member so that ~~ends~~ the closed loop and the hook of a leader can be supported by the flexible support members and the leader can be stored in a taut condition.

19. (Original) The storage assembly of claim 18, wherein each support member has an arcuate recess.

20. (Currently amended) The storage assembly of claim 15, wherein the elongated member is flexible and can be flexed between an equilibrium configuration and a flexed configuration to vary the longitudinal distance between the flexible support members.

21. (Original) The storage assembly of claim 15, further comprising a storage tray pivotally retained in the container, wherein the leader hanger is releasably retained in the storage tray.

22. (Original) The storage assembly of claim 15, further comprising removable partitions retained in the container, wherein the removable partitions form the leader holding structure.

23. (Currently amended) The storage assembly of claim 22, wherein each removable partition has a top and at least one slot formed in the top, wherein ~~each~~ the elongated member has opposed ends that are retained in the slots.

24. (Currently amended) A fishing leader storage assembly, comprising:

a molded plastic container having an interior storage space and a pair of opposed upstanding walls with slots formed therein; and

~~at least one~~ a molded plastic leader hanger removably disposed in the molded plastic container, wherein each fishing leader comprises a closed loop of fishing line, an intermediate section of fishing line, and a hook secured to the intermediate section, and the leader hanger is a generally flat elongated flexible member with ends that engage the slots in the upstanding walls of the molded plastic container and sides that form leader support members that extend outwardly along the length of the elongated flexible member, so that fishing leaders may be secured between leader support members by flexing the leader hanger so that the closed loop is engaged with an end of the elongated flexible member and the hook is hookingly engaged with a leader support member.

25. (New) The storage assembly of claim 24, wherein the intermediate section is supported by a second leader support member.

26. (New) A fishing leader hanger for storing fishing leaders, each fishing leader comprising a closed loop of fishing line, an intermediate section of fishing line extending from the closed loop and a hook connected to the intermediate section, the fishing leader hanger comprising:

an elongated member having a plurality of integral leader support members thereon, wherein the elongated member has a length and opposed longitudinal wall portions and the support members extend from at least one longitudinal wall portion at fixed spaced longitudinal locations, and each leader support member is configured to support an intermediate section of a fishing leader and is configured to hookingly engage a hook of a fishing leader.

27. (New) The fishing leader hanger of claim 26, wherein each support member has a pair of arcuate edges formed therein.

28. (New) The fishing leader hanger of claim 26, wherein the elongated member is flexible such that the longitudinal distance between support members can be varied by flexing the elongated member.

29. (New) The fishing leader hanger of claim 28, wherein the fishing leader hanger is constructed of molded plastic.

30. (New) The fishing leader hanger of claim 26, wherein the leader hanger has opposed ends and longitudinally extending slots at each opposed end, wherein the slots are longitudinally spaced from the leader support members, such that the closed loop of a leader can be retained by one of the opposed ends, the intermediate section can be supported by a first leader support member, and the hook can be engaged with a second leader support member.